

A Copie of *Numb. 2.*
The Kings Commission,

GRANTED TO
SIR NICOLAS CRISPE,

Making him
Admirall of the Sea-Pirats.

Brought (with other Papers) to the Parliament by *M. Peters,*
AND
Presented to the Committee for the Navy.

Published according to Order.



L O N D O N,
Printed for R. Austin. 1645.

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The Kings Commission

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Admirall of the Sea Forces

Alouche (with other ships) and command by M. P. 1700

Presented to the Council by the Admirall

Published according to Order





CHARLES by the grace of God, of
England, Scotland, France, and Ireland,
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

**To all to whom these Presents shall
come, Greeting.**



Hereas in the time of this unnaturall Rebellion, our
owne Ships and Vessells belonging to our Royall
Navie have bin traitterously seized upon, and those
and divers Ships and Vessells belonging to others, as
well Strangers as our owne Subjects, have bin and
still are employed against us, or in the service of the
Rebells in Armes against us, by carrying or conveying of Armes,
Ammunition, Money, Victuals, and other Provisions for their aid
and

and assistance, or by exporting from them Money, Bullion, Plate, or prohibited Goods, without licence, contrarie to the Lawes; or by trading and carrying of Goods and Merchandize for trade and commerce, to and from those parts, Cities, Townes, and Places which are under the usurped Powers the Rebels in Armes against us: And likewise by paying Customes, Subsidies, and Imposts, to the said Rebels, contrary to the Lawes, and our Proclamation in that behalf, which affords them means and ability towards the maintenance and upholding of the said unnaturall Rebellion.

And whereas divers of our good Subjects adhering to us, have suffered great losse and damage by the said Rebels, and their Abettors as well upon the Land as upon the Sea, for which they can have no remedie in ordinarie course of justice, in regard those that have done the same, are kept out of the reach or hand of justice, by the Powers and Forces so traitorously raised against us.

And whereas in these times of distractions divers Pyrates, and Sea-Robbers commit great spoiles and outrages upon our owne Subjects, and the Subjects of our friends and allies, and divers of our Subjects of our Kingdomes of Scotland, have traitorously and traitorously risen up in Rebellion, and taken up Armes, against us their naturall Leige Lord and Sovereigne, and have in a hostile manner invaded this our Kingdome of England.

And whereas divers Ships and Vessels well manned, and others, are employed at Sea in their aid and assistance, in manner as aforesaid. And whereas upon those occasions we have been forced to set out Ships at our own great charge, for our owne defence, and the defence of our loyall Subjects, and preventing the mischiefs before mentioned, and have likewise thought fit to give all encouragement to any of our good Subjects which are willing and desirous to set out Ships at their own charge for aid towards the weakening and suppressing of the said Rebels, and more particularly to those our good Subjects who have sustained damages by the said Rebels, either at Land or Sea, to the end they may obtaine some recompence or satisfaction for their said losses.

And whereas we are informed that Sir Nicholas Crisp Knight, hath suffered great losse and damage in the time of this unnaturall

Rebellion, by the said Rebels, their Adherents, or Abettors, as well at Sea as upon the Land.

Know yet therefore, that wee reposing speciall trust in his, the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp* fidelitie and circumspection, whereof we have had verie good experience, have given and granted, and by these Presents doe give and grant unto him, the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, and to such as hee shall take into Partner-ship and Consort-ship with him therein, full power and authoritie, at his and their owne charges to set to Sea, out of any of our Ports or Havens whatsoever, fishing or twentie ships, or vessels or war, or any other number of ships and vessels, not being lesse than fifteene, equipped, victualled, fitted, furnished, and manned for war.

And, wee doe hereby give unto him the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp* full power and authoritie to command in Chief, as Admirall of the said ships, and other vessels, and men in them, either in his owne person, or by his Substitute, and to nominate and appoint Vice-Admiralls, Rears-Admiralls, Captains, Commanders, and Officers, in the said ships, as shall be necessarie for each ship.

And, we doe hereby give unto him the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, and to such as shall be employed by, or under him, in this service, full power and authoritie with the said ships, to be set out by him and his partners, as aforesaid, or any of them, to take, seize, or surprize, or to take off resistance, now or hereafter requireth, by fight to compell, and take into his or their possessions, or destroy any of our owne ships or vessels, set forth without our Commission, Warrant, or Leave. And also, any other ships or vessels belonging to what person, or of what place soever, which are or shall be employed in any service for any of the said Rebels, of either our said Kingdomes of England or Scotland, or of any their Aiders, Abettors, or Adherents, and all goods and merchandize in them contained, and all ships and vessels which shall be employed in importing, carrying,

vying, or conveying any Armes, Ammunition, materials, or
 provision for their, or any of their aid or assistance, or in expor-
 ting, or transporting for them, or any of them, or for their, or
 for any their use, any money, Bullion, or prohibited goods
 whatsoever, without our licence, or contrary to the Law; or
 in trading, or carrying merchandice for trade or commerce to
 or from any Port, Citty, Towne, or Place; now, or which at
 any time hereafter shall be under the usurped Power, or hol-
 ding of the said Rebels, or of any of them, or which have paid,
 or shall pay them the said Ransome, or any of them, or any other
 by their direction or appointment, any Customes, Subsidies,
 Imposts, or other duties whatsoever, unless it be by, and with
 our speciall licence or allowance: And likewise the ships and
 vessels of all Pyrats and Sea-Rovers, together with all furni-
 ture, Ammunition, provisions, goods, lading and merchandice
 in any of the aforesaid ships or vessels; and the said ships, ves-
 sels, furniture, ammunition; provisions, goods, merchandice
 and lading, to cause to be proceeded against, adjudged and con-
 demned, according to the Law and Courte of the Admiraltie,
 as the case shall require before the Judge of our Court of Ad-
 miraltie for the time being, or other Judge or Judges of any
 Vice Admiraltie, as good and lawfull Prize. And after such
 adjudication and condemnation, to have, keep, possess, and en-
 joy all aforesaid ships, vessels, furniture, ammunition, provision,
 goods, lading, and merchandice, so by them, or any of them ta-
 ken as aforesaid, as good and lawfull prize and purchase to their
 owne use and uses of the Adventurers and Company joyning,
 as aforesaid, to be shared and divided amongst them, as they
 shall contract and agree together, without any account to
 be made to Us, our Heires or Successors, except such of our
 owne ships and vessels, with their Ordnance, tackle, and fur-
 niture, as shall be so by them taken, which we will and require
 shall be restored to Us and to our use, wee paying and allowing
 the sum of five pounds of lawfull money of England, upon
 every Tonne of our said owne ships and vessels, as shall with
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the Ordnance, tackle, and furniture of the same, or belonging therunto, be taken and restored to Vs as aforesaid: And allowing also, to the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp* his Partners, Associates, the goods & merchandises in any such of our own ships or vessels, to be made prize and divided amongst them, in such manner, and under such reservation to Vs, as other goods and merchandises taken in any other ships or vessels ought to be, according to the tenour of this our Commission.

And we do also hereby give and grant to him, the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, his Partners and Associates, that it shall and may be lawful for him and them, to receive, use, and employ such of our said owne ships so to be taken and surprised, till we have made payment of the said five pounds per Tonne to him or them for the same, without any account or satisfaction to be made to Vs for the same whatsoever. Excepting also further, and reserving to Vs all tithes heretofore used to be paid in cities of like nature to the Admirall of England, and all Customes and duties due, or accustomedly paid for and upon any the said prizes which we will shall be paid and accounted for to us, and to our use: *Provided* also, w^{ch} that before any of the said ships or vessels of war so to be set out by him the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, his Partners or Associates, shall go out of the said Ports, Havens, or Harbours aforesaid, upon the said employment, the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp* shall cause the Captaine, Master and chief Mate of everie of the said ships, to enter into a bond or obligation of the perill summe of one thousand pounds to Vs, with condition thereupon, that they, nor either of them, nor any their company employed in the said ship, shall wittingly, or knowingly, rob, spoyle, hurt, or endamage any of our Subjects, or the Subjects of any of our friends, or allies, other than such of either of our said Kingdoms of England and Scotland, as shalbe in Rebellion against us, or shalbe Abettors to the said Rebellion, or have, or shall pay Customes, Subsidies, or Imposts to the said Rebels, contrary to the Law, without our speciall licence or allowance; or shalbe employed in aid or service of the said Rebels, or any of them, or which
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are or shalbe employed in exporting for them, or for their use, any Bullion, Plate or other prohibited Goods, without our licence, or shall convey any provisions to or for the said Rebels, or shall trade to or from any of those Cities, Towns, Ports, or places, which are or shalbe under the usurped power or holding of the Rebels, or either of our said Kingdoms, of England, or Scotland, as have or shall take the late traitorous Covenant, or League, against us. And likewise, that all Ships by them taken, and imprievd, with their furniture, goods, and lading, shall be brought inire, without breaking bulk, into some Port of our Kingdome of England; now or then in our possession and obedience, except in case of apparent danger of the Rebels Ships: In which case it shall and may be lawfull to carrie the said Ships, or Vessells, or any of them, into any Port of our Kingdome of Ireland, or into any other Port of any Forragine Prince, or State in league or amity with us; and there to be and remain till the same shall receive sentence, and adjudication of any of our Courts of Admiralty, or Vice Admiralty, in such manner and upon such testimony, as if the said Ships and Goods were in any of our owne Ports and Harbours, so as a true inventory valuation and apprizement of the said Ships, and Vessells, and of their goods & ladings, be first made & delivered into the Court of Admiralty, or Vice Admiralty, where the proceeding, sentence or adjudication touching the same shall be.

And forasmuch as the setting out & finishing of the said Ships of Warre cannot be done without the great charge and expence of the said *Nicholas Crisp*, his Partners, and Associates, and may probably conduce, not onely to and for the reparation of the losses and damages by them sustained, by the said Rebels, but may also much tend to our Service,

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by weakening the strength of the said Rebels, destroying their trade, and suppressing this present Rebellion.

We do therefore hereby full power grant unto him, the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, and such others as he shall receive into his association and partnership as aforesaid, that none of the said Ships, or vessels of war, so by him or them to be let forth, shall be impressed, commanded, or employed upon any other service but as whatsoever, save only to fetch or convey Armes, or Ammunition from foreign parts into this Kingdom, for our special service. And that only by warrant from Our Selfe, under our Signe Manuall, and then not to stay in any Harbour above twentie dayes, and to be paid for every such voyage according to the rate of foure pounds per month for every man to be employed in every such voyage. And that none of the said Ships, vessels, or men be commanded, or employed in any second, or other voyage, upon the said service, until they shall be paid and satisfied what shall be so due unto them upon the first voyage, as aforesaid.

And further, That no Masters, Masters-Mate, Gunner, Sailer, Mariners, or other Officers or Servants employed by, or under the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, in any of the said Ships and vessels shall be impressed, or taken out of the same upon any occasion whatsoever, without the consent of him the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*. Nor that any Ammunition, victuall, or provision taken up, or provided for the said Ships or vessels, or which shall be in, or belonging to any prize taken by any of the said Ships or vessels, shall be taken away, or seized upon for our service, or other occasion whatsoever, without the consent or agreement of him the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, his Partners or Associates.

And that the said service and employment may be the better effected and performed, and the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp* the more enabled to provide, furnish, and set out the said number of Ships and vessels, by him propounded as aforesaid, We doe hereby give and grant to him the said Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, his Partners and Associates, full power and authority to provide

or that into his or their company, nor other ships or vessels, as well of Forreiners in amity with vs, as of our owne Subjects, upon the best conditions hee or they can contract or agree for the same with the Owners thereof; and to employ and use them in the said service.

And Wee do likewise give unto the said Sir *Archiebald Crisp*, his Partners and Associates, full power and authority from time to time, and as often as hee or they shall thinke fit and requisite, or coming to the service, to send Forces as hee or they shall thinke fit, in or neere unto any place or places within any our Dominions, where any Insurrection or Rebellion is, or shall happen to be, and to suppress such Rebellion; and to suppress opposition or resistance, by fight to subdue, or destroy all such Rebels and Traytors; and to appoint such Commanders over such part of the Forces as shall there be landed, as shall be thought fit by him or them respectively, and likewise in our name, to save and preserve such persons of the said Rebels so subdued and repressed, either by Land or Sea, as hee or they shall thinke fit to be saved and preserved, and to exchange, or keep such of the said Rebels, as hee or they shall thinke fit to be kept or exchanged; and to make tender of the said Rebels and persons to such of them as shall humbly desire vs, and desire to receive our mercy: and shall be thought meet, provided to be received into our favour and grace, other than, and except such as are already excepted by vs in any of our Proclamations, or Declarations.

And, Wee do likewise give unto him the said Sir *Archiebald Crisp*, power and authority, to make, ordaine, proclaime, and put in execution Lawes, Ordinances, and Constitutions, for the better order and government of the ships and men, which by vertue of this our Commission, shall be under his charge and command. And to punish offences, tumults, rapines, mutinies, and other crimes which shall be committed and done by any person or persons, under his charge or command, either upon the Sea or Land, according to the course and usage of the Sea, or of War, as the case shall happen to be.

And

And we do hereby require and command the Judges of our Court of Admiralty, and the other Judges of their several Vice-Admiralties within our Kingdome of England and Dominion of Wales, or elsewhere, that they do cause that our Commission, they forthwith proceed to execution, or adjunction of the same with speed and effect, as good and lawfull shall be, without any unnecessary delay, which may come to his or their prejudicing.

And we do hereby command and require all Governours, Capitaines, and Commanders of all our Cities, Castles, Towns, and Garrisons, and all Sheriffs, Justices, Bailiffs, Justices of the Peace, Vice-Admiralls, Constables, and all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever, within any of our Dominions, to be aiding and assisting to him the said Sir Nicholas *Cress*, his Partners, and Associates, and such as shall be employed by or under him, or through the execution of the same, as they shall see the contrary to their duties and allegiance, and to be aiding and assisting to him the said Sir Nicholas *Cress*, his Partners, and Associates, and those under him or their command, in the execution of this our Commission.

And we do also hereby desire all others, as well Admiralls, Vice-Admiralls, Capitaines, and Officers, and other their Subjects belonging unto any Prince or State now in unity with us, to be aiding and assisting to us as occasion shall require, to him the said Sir Nicholas *Cress*, his Partners, and Associates, and those under him or their command, in the execution of this our Commission.

And we do hereby also require and command the Judges of our Court of Admiralty, for the time being, upon Request made by him the said Sir Nicholas *Cress* for that purpose, to grant unto him the said Sir Nicholas *Cress*, and to the Capitaines or Commanders of every the Ships to be set out, or employed as aforesaid, severall Letters of Marque, or Represail, or Commission of that nature, under the great Seale of our Court of Admiralty, enabling them for taking prizes according to the substance of this our Commission, to the end the said Commission may have and receive the greater countenance, authority, and effect in Forraigne parts beyond the Seas.

And further know ye, that we putting speciall trust and confidence in the said Sir Nicholas *Cress*, and being assured of

nance to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding: Provided that instead of every such ship so barteted away, exchanged, or sold, there be one other ship provided from Forraigne parts, at least equally usefull, if not better for the present service and employment.

And our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby declare, that this our Commission, and the Powers, Libertie, Licence, Authority hereby respectively given and granted, shalbe and continue in force for and during the space of two whole years next ensuing the date hereof (if this Rebellion should so long continue) and no longer.

In witness whereof Wee have caused these our Letters to be made Patents: Witnesse Our Selfe at Oxford, the sixth day of May, in the twentieth yeare of Our Raigne.

Signed

Per ipsum Regem.

BY vertue and authoritie of this Commission granted to me Sir *Nicholas Crisp*, Knight, I do hereby ordaine and appoint my very good and approved friend, and true Subject of the King of England, *Gerhard Ibbert* owner of the Frigate called *S. Patrick* of Falmouth, to be Captaine and Commander of the said Frigate: And do authorize him the said Captaine *Ibbert* to doe, performe, and execute all such things as are to be done and executed by vertue of this Commission, requiring all the Officers and Mariners of the said Frigate to obey the said Captaine *Ibbert* in all things, as their Captaine and Commander, not to depart from him having voluntarily put themselves under his command, without the said Captaine's leave and licence: and the said Captaine *Ibbert* is to obey Sir *Nicholas Crisp* in all things as his Admiral.

N. Crisp.

This Copie being conferred with the Original, is found to agree therewith:

Jacobus Abellum, Secretiff. Dom. nostri Magna Britannia Regis Nos. Pub. admissi atque jurati. 1645.

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*To the Committee for the Navie.**Noble Sirs :*

WE E present you here one peece of the Enemies care by sea; the readinesse of their undertakings, the willing acceptance of such tenders, the counsell they have, their present executions, their engaging of their whole partie, even as far as Poperie reacheth, and as low as Hell; for from this Commission, the Dunkirk and Ostend Frigots get theirs, and act vigorously: some have formerly said of England, That the sea could give lawes to their forraigne and domestick broyles. Wee therefore desire that you would look upon this Critically yeere, and upon such meanes as God hath betrusted you withall. Remember the sea (in former times) hath ever danced under our vessels laden with victorious trophies from abroad; let us not be baffled at our doors, the ships and sea-men are yet yours, 'tis a great prize: God keeps all the world upon the hinges by his counsell;

(13)

sell; States and Kingdomes must keep their
work on the wheeles by the same way; this
Kingdome will never be delivered by Law,
but Men, who being good, carrie Law in
their bosomes. Shew your selves now, if ever,
to save a gasping Nation, that after-ages may
say, There was a blessed, faithfull, State-saving
Committee of the Navie: The Lord help you
and us. AMEN.